

## 'Was forced off stage by mayor's men'

### BCL leader Diaz's mother claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mother of Diaz Irfan Chowdhury -- assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), whose body was found in his flat near Chittagong University on November 20, 2016 -- has expressed her anger at Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin.

The Daily Star obtained a video clip of Jaheda Amin Chowdhury, Diaz's mother, expressing her resentment at the mayor yesterday -- present as chief speaker at an event organised by Chattogram city unit of Krishak League to administer oath against terrorism and drugs at Chattogram Press Club.

Eye witnesses said Jaheda, women's affairs secretary of Chattogram city unit of Krishak League, started crying when she saw Nasir entering the venue. She demanded punishment for her son's murderers. At one stage, followers of Nasir stopped her and escorted her to a corner of the auditorium, they said.

Leaving the auditorium, Jaheda said she forbade her son from following Nasir's leadership, as "he does not tolerate followers who have ambitions".

"My son did not heed my words... Youngsters do not understand... If they go missing like Diaz, he [Nasir] would

not speak for them," she said in the one-minute-long video clip.

Contacted, Jaheda said when she was speaking at the meeting, the mayor reached the auditorium. "I told the mayor: my son was his follower but he was not vocal in demanding punishment for the murderers. I asked him why false postmortem report was given under his guidance. At this time, Nasir's followers made me leave the stage. I went outside; the mayor's PS and another person asked me to go home, otherwise there will be consequences," she said.

Contacted, Raihan Uddin, Nasir's personal secretary, denied the allegation. "Diaz's mother became overwrought with emotion and demanded that the mayor ensure punishment of her son's murderers. No one made her leave the auditorium and no one gave her threats," he said.

Contacted, Kazi Anwar Hafiz, general secretary of Krishak League's port city unit, denied the allegation of escorting Diaz's mother outside. "Jaheda Amin is a leader of our organisation. She was overcome with emotions about her son's death but stayed till the end of the programme," he said, adding, "No untoward incident happened at the meeting."

Mayor Nasir could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

# Dispensing drinking water at affordable rate

## Wasa to launch card-operated vending machines in Ctg today

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Good news for port city residents!

To provide drinking water at a low price, Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is launching a water ATM in port city today.

People can buy drinking water at Tk 0.60 per litre through the service -- much cheaper than bottled water, sold at Tk 15-20 per litre (bottle) at stores.

Hailing the initiative, city dwellers said this service would help them get much-needed drinking water at a cheaper rate.

"I often buy water from shops and a litre costs around Tk 20. This automated water vending machine service would be a nice way to start the New Year," said Sajib Das, a private job holder in Khulshi area.

Shahedul Azam, a resident of Patenga, said Wasa did not supply water in his area. "There is a problem of salinity and iron in the tubewell water and so we have to buy jar water for drinking, which costs Tk 5 per litre," he said. "If water ATM is set up in Patenga, we will be able to get safe and affordable water."

Wasa officials said initially the service will start from Khulshi Road 1 and it will be expanded to three more spots -- Halishahar Nayabazar,



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Agarabad Badamtoli and Sadarghat Saheb Bazar -- within a month. The number of booths will be increased to 100 by this year.

To this end, Chattogram Wasa signed an agreement with a US-based company "Drinkwell". The company has set up a Water

ATM at Khulshi Road 1 inside a Wasa pump station.

Visiting the area yesterday, it was seen that the booth had two outlets, where two persons can avail the service simultaneously. A consumer

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH NASIR



The last sunset of 2019 over Tanguar Haor in Sylhet yesterday. Today's sunrise marks the beginning of a new decade.

## TEJGAON BUSINESSMAN MURDER

### Accused refuses to record statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An accused, who was arrested for killing Tejgaon businessman Tobarak Hossain, refused to give confessional statement after he was produced before a magistrate yesterday.

Investigation officer Syed Iftekar Hossain, an inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of Police, produced Sohail Pradhan at around 2pm at the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim for recording his statement.

But Sohail refused to give statement before the magistrate. Following the incident, he was sent to Keraniganj Central Jail, court sources said.

In yesterday's forwarding report, the investigation officer said Sohail, while on remand, admitted his guilt and said he would confess to the killing.

On December 29, two accused -- Imon Hossain and Golam Rabbi -- gave confessional statements to two separate magistrates, where they said they along with others killed Tobarak to loot valuables.

Seventy-year-old businessman Tobarak Hossain was killed in his Tejgaon flat on December 25.

Five accused in the case were arrested on Saturday.

## Dhanmondi Club AGM held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 20th annual general meeting (AGM) of Dhanmondi Club Ltd was held on December 28 on its premises.

It was presided over by Club President Advocate Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, says a press release. A large number of club members attended the AGM.

All agenda were discussed and unanimously passed during the event. Club authorities thanked members for their participation in the AGM.

## WORKPLACE CASUALTIES

### 11,275 workers died in the last decade: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of casualties in workplaces increased in 2019 in comparison to the previous year, mainly due to lack of safety in the workplace, said a report.

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) launched the report in a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

In the last 10 years, at least 11,275 workers were killed and 7,832 were injured in workplace accidents, says the report.

At least 945 workers were killed across the country in 2019 while the number was 898 in 2018, it says. In the year, 269 workers were killed in the formal sector while 676 others in informal sector. Of the deceased, 294 died in transport sector.

Road crashes, lack of safety, electrocution, fire, lightning, and boiler and cylinder explosions were reasons for deaths, said vice chairperson of the foundation, Dr SM Morshed. The report was based on news reports and information gathered from the spots, he added.

## Miscreants attack leftists' rally

### Activists allege AL involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of helmet wearing miscreants, allegedly led by Awami League men, attacked a rally organised by Pragatishil Bal Oikya Jote in Sylhet city's Bandarbarazar area yesterday afternoon.

The rally was organised to protest the clash between police and activists of Democratic Left Alliance in the capital on Monday.

In yesterday's attack, at least 12 activists of different leftist political parties were injured.

Pranab Jyoti Paul, a leader of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) in Sylhet, said, "While we were in the area, a group of 40-50 people, led by local AL leader Faruk Ahmed, attacked us with bamboo and wood sticks.

"In protest, we ran after them and they took shelter at Bandarbarazar police outpost," he added.

Selim Miah, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said, "We have heard of a clash in the area but we did not find any miscreant on the spot and no complaint was filed yet."

Mashuk Uddin, president of AL's Sylhet city unit, denied the allegations, saying that Faruk Ahmed is not officially affiliated with AL, so the party will not take any responsibility.

Faruk could not be reached for comments.

## Book on home minister launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent personalities and top government officials yesterday showered Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal with love, respect and good wishes on his 69th birthday.

A book titled "Nandito Shorastromontri Bir Muktijoddha Asaduzzaman Khan" was also launched at a ceremony, held at AKM Giasuddin Milky Auditorium in the capital, to mark the occasion.

The book is a collection of essays, written by distinguished personalities, on the minister. It has been published by Panjeree Publications Ltd.

Speaking at the event, National Professor Rafiqul Islam said Asaduzzaman, who is a freedom fighter,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## College student dies in road accident

STAR REPORT

A college student was killed in a road accident at Gopalpur upazila in Tangail yesterday.

The deceased Nirob Hasan (22) was a first year honors student at local Sujat Ali College, reports our Tangail correspondent.

The accident occurred on Monday evening when Nirob was on his way to Sirajganj by motorcycle. Around Sonamui Bazar area, his motorcycle collided with a three-wheeler, leaving him seriously injured, police said.

He was rushed to Tangail General

Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of yesterday.

In Rajbari, Golam Khan, a construction worker, was killed in a road accident on Rajbari-Baliakandi road at Natun bazar area under Sadar upazila yesterday morning, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

Quoting locals, Sawpan Kumar Majumdar, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Sadar Police Station, said the accident took place around 9am when a sand-laden truck crushed Golam's bicycle, killing him on the spot.

Police later seized the truck but the driver managed to flee the scene.



আর এফ এল

## Let's begin something old

Give a new meaning to the relationships that matter

Can you recall the face of that friend to whom you would give the books and bunk school? Do you remember that aunt, who would keep khichuri and chicken warm on table for you all? Why do we need to go that far? When was the last you opened up to your sister? When was the last you told your mother something you never thought you would tell her?

Time is changing. So are the way we express, feel for someone and the relationships we care. Sometimes our love and affection have been confined to Facebook likes, Instagram follows, and text messages. It is now considered a luxury to go and sit next to someone. It is a super luxury if we open up to someone and talk to our hearts content.

Let this new year be an exception. Let's not be trapped by technology but use it as a tool to express yourself. Be more human and experience the joy of human touch, feel and care. To be happy be in touch with the loved ones and not the screen.

Agricultural Materials | Building materials | Sanitary ware & fittings | Furniture  
 Kitchen | Electric & electronics | Bicycle | Melamine | Stationery

@rflbd.com | f pranrflbd | ln pran-rfl-group | +88007777777

